

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please delete the paragraph starting at page 4, line 26 (paragraph [0022] of the application publication 2006/0063000) and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

6. The production process of foamed and molded products wherein discrete air bubbles are introduced in the products by blending ~~[[the]]~~ a thermo-expansive microcapsule ~~described in claims 1 to 5~~ with rubber or resin and by heating the blend to expand the microcapsule. The thermo-expansive microcapsule comprises a polymeric shell produced by polymerizing monomer components containing 15 to 75 weight % of a nitrile monomer, 10 to 65 weight % of a monomer having a carboxyl group, 0.1 to 20 weight % of a monomer having an amide group and 0.1 to 20 weight % of a monomer having a cyclic structure in its side chain; and a blowing agent encapsulated in the polymeric shell. The thermo-expansive microcapsule's polymeric shell may be produced by polymerizing the monomer components further containing 3 weight % or less of a monomer having at least two polymerizable double bonds (a cross-linking agent). The thermo-expansive microcapsule's shell may have a glass transition point (T_g) of 120 °C or higher. The thermo-expansive microcapsule's polymeric shell may contain 1 to 25 weight % of inorganic compounds. The thermo-expansive microcapsule may have a maximum expanding temperature of 200 °C or higher.

Please deleted the paragraph starting at page 4, line 29 (or paragraph [0023] of the application publication 2006/0063000) and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

7. The foamed and molded products containing the thermo-expansive microcapsule ~~described in claims 1 to 5~~ comprising a polymeric shell produced by polymerizing monomer components containing 15 to 75 weight % of a nitrile monomer, 10 to 65 weight % of a monomer having a carboxyl group, 0.1 to 20 weight % of a monomer having an amide group and 0.1 to 20 weight % of a monomer having a cyclic structure

in its side chain; and a blowing agent encapsulated in the polymeric shell. The thermo-expansive microcapsule's polymeric shell may be produced by polymerizing the monomer components further containing 3 weight % or less of a monomer having at least two polymerizable double bonds (a cross-linking agent). The thermo-expansive microcapsule's shell may have a glass transition point (Tg) of 120 °C or higher. The thermo-expansive microcapsule's polymeric shell may contain 1 to 25 weight % of inorganic compounds. The thermo-expansive microcapsule may have a maximum expanding temperature of 200 °C or higher.